

What is claimed is:

1. A control system for use with a vehicle having an onboard battery and circuitry delivering battery voltage to plural remote onboard locations at which battery voltage is accessible, the system comprising:

a portable wireless remote control unit including circuitry for generating and transmitting wireless control signals, and

a portable wireless receiving unit for receiving wireless control signals and generating output signals,

the receiving unit including a power input lead adapted to be connected to battery voltage at any of the remote locations on the vehicle and a control output lead for connecting the output signals to an associated apparatus to be controlled.

2. The system of claim 1, wherein the remote control unit includes circuitry for encoding the control signals and the receiving unit includes circuitry for decoding the control signals.

3. The system of claim 1, wherein the remote control unit includes a user interface.

4. The system of claim 3, wherein the user interface includes a keypad.

5. The system of claim 3, wherein the user interface includes visible indicators.

6. The system of claim 1, wherein the remote control unit includes a connector plug adapter for connection in a vehicle cigarette lighter socket.

7. The system of claim 1, wherein the remote control unit includes a battery.

8. The system of claim 1, wherein the receiving unit includes a connector on the control output lead adapted for connection to the associated apparatus to be controlled.

9. The system of claim 1, wherein the remote control unit includes a programmable control circuit.

10. A method of controlling a decorative accessory lighting system on a vehicle which has an onboard battery and circuitry delivering battery voltage to plural remote locations on the vehicle at which battery voltage is accessible, the method comprising:

providing a portable wireless remote control transmitting unit and a portable wireless receiving unit,

connecting the receiving unit to battery voltage at an access location on the vehicle close to that at which the accessory lighting system is to be disposed,

connecting the receiving unit to the accessory lighting system, and

transmitting wireless control signals from the transmitting unit to the receiving unit.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein the step of connecting the receiving unit to battery voltage includes providing a power input lead on the receiving unit and splicing it to the vehicle circuitry at the access location.

12. The method of claim 10, wherein the step of connecting the receiving unit to the accessory lighting system includes providing a control output lead on the receiving unit with a connector adapted for connection to a mating connector on the accessory lighting system.

13. The method of claim 10, wherein the step of transmitting wireless control signals includes selecting an operating pattern for the accessory lighting system.

14. The method of claim 10, and further comprising connecting the remote control transmitting unit to the vehicle battery.

15. The method of claim 14, and further comprising providing a plug connector on the remote control transmitting unit adapted for plugging into a cigarette lighter socket on the vehicle.

16. The method of claim 10, and further comprising providing the remote control transmitting unit with its own battery.